THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The two Prime Ministers took note of the fact that the dailogue at various levels was continuing and it was agreed that individual issues could thus be sorted out. In this context, it may be mentioned that the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan are expected to meet in the near future for an across-the-board discussion on bilateral and other issues of mutual interest.

Release of Instalment of World Bank Assistance

1348. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank have detained the release of instalment of their assistance to Sardar Sarovar Project on river Narmada; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what action is being taken by Government to comply with the issues raised by the World Bank with a view to ensure early release of instalment, and the details thereof;

(c) by when the release of the instalment is expected from World Bank;

(d) whether the concerned State Governments are considering any scheme to raise the compensatory forests in place of the existing forests to be submerged; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether big dams would help irrigation and ecology conducive to our country in final analysis; if so, the reasons for the opposition coming against big dams ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The clearance of Sardar Sarovar Project under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been accorded subject inter-*alia* to raising compensatory afforestation in double the area in degraded forest lands in addition to afforestation on equivalent non-forest land.

(e) Large dams do help in providing irrigation. Their planning and implementation need to be done keeping in view the requirement of environmental and ecological balance. Each case has to be considered on its merits.

Ground Water Resources in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

1349. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that large resources of ground water have been located in Jaisalmer area of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what are the estimated reserves thereof, and what steps are being taken for its exploitations; and

(c) whether Government have decided to put such projects on priority list, if so, whether the project for tapping ground water resources of Jaisalmer district is ready for implementation, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c) Ground water worthy zones have been delineated in Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan on the basis of hydrogeological surveys. The replenishable ground water resource potential of the district is estimated at 143 million cubic metre. In Jaisalmer area, during the current year 49 tubewells are proposed to be drilled, 9 out of which have been constructed so far.

Representations by Persons/Organisations from Gujarat

1350. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Members of Parliament, various trade unions,